

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) An elastic fastener comprising a hollow tubular portion, an internally threaded portion provided at one of the ends of said tubular portion, and a flange formed at the other end of said tubular portion,

wherein said tubular portion and said flange are integrally formed with each other and made of an elastomeric material selected from the group consisting of a styrene-based elastomer, a polyamide-based elastomer, a polyester-based elastomer, a urethane-based elastomer and an olefin-based elastomer, and

said internally threaded portion is formed of a rigid resin material selected from the group consisting of a polycarbonate resin, a styrene-based resin, an acrylic-based resin, a polyester-based resin, a nylon-based resin, a modified PPE resin and a polymer alloy composed of polycarbonate,

said internally threaded portion having a plurality of external surfaces defining an external nut shape a plurality of planer surfaces interconnected by curved surfaces, said internally threaded portion being integrally fixed to internally received in a through aperture of said tubular portion in a hole of said tubular portion, and

a thermal bond defining an integral connection between said tubular portion and said internally threaded portion.

2. (Original) An elastic fastener as defined in claim 1, wherein said elastomeric material of said flange and said tubular portion has a JIS-A hardness in the range of 40 to 90 degree.

3. (Original) An elastic fastener as defined in claim 1, wherein said flange and said tubular portion are integrally formed with each other by injection molding, said internally threaded portion being formed as a single piece by injection molding, and said internally threaded portion being joined to said tubular portion by fusion bonding.

4. (Original) An elastic fastener as defined in claim 2, wherein said flange and said tubular portion are integrally formed with each other by injection molding, said internally threaded portion being formed as a single piece by injection molding, and said internally threaded portion being joined to said tubular portion by fusion bonding.

5. (Previously Presented) An elastic fastener comprising:
a tubular portion defining a through bore, an internally threaded portion provided at a first end of said tubular portion, and a flange formed at a second end of said tubular portion,
wherein said tubular portion and said flange are monolithic component formed of a first polymer material, and

said internally threaded portion is formed of a second polymer material, said second polymer material being a rigid resin material, said internally threaded portion defining a plurality of external surfaces comprising planer surfaces

interconnected between curved surfaces which are configured to be fixably coupled to a plurality of internal surfaces of the through bore.

6. (Previously presented) An elastic fastener as defined in claim 5, wherein said first material has a JIS-A hardness in the range of 40 to 90 degree.

7. (Previously presented) An elastic fastener as defined in claim 5, wherein said flange and said tubular portion are integrally formed with each other by injection molding, and wherein said internally threaded portion is formed as a single piece by injection molding, and said internally threaded portion is joined to said tubular portion by fusion bonding.

8. (Previously presented) An elastic fastener as defined in claim 6, wherein said flange and said tubular portion are integrally formed with each other by injection molding, said internally threaded portion being formed as a single piece by injection molding, and said internally threaded portion being joined to said tubular portion by fusion bonding.

9. (Previously presented) An elastic fastener as defined in claim 5 wherein said tubular portion and said flange are integrally formed with each other and made of an elastomeric material is selected from the group consisting of a styrene-based elastomer, a polyamide-based elastomer, a polyester-based elastomer, a urethane-based elastomer and an olefin-based elastomer.

10. (Previously presented) An elastic fastener as defined in claim 5 wherein said rigid resin material is selected from the group consisting of a polycarbonate resin, a styrene-based resin, an acrylic-based resin, a polyester-based resin, a nylon-based resin, a modified PPE resin and a polymer alloy composed of polycarbonate.

11. (currently amended) An elastic fastener comprising:

a hollow tubular portion having a flange on one end, ~~wherein~~ the hollow tubular portion is being formed of an elastomeric material;

an internally threaded portion having a plurality of external planer surfaces that mate with a corresponding plurality of surfaces of the tubular portion; and

a fusion bond operable to integrally join the internal threaded portion to the tubular portion;

~~wherein the internally threaded portion is formed of a ridged rigid resin material, and is fused to the hollow tubular portion.~~

12. (Previously Presented) The elastic fastener of claim 11, wherein said elastomeric material of said tubular portion is selected from the group consisting of a styrene-based elastomer, a polyamide-based elastomer, a polyester-based elastomer, a urethane-based elastomer and an olefin-based elastomer.

13. (currently amended) The elastic fastener of claim 11, wherein said ridged rigid resin material of said internally threaded portion is selected from the group

consisting of a polycarbonate resin, a styrene-based resin, an acrylic-based resin, a polyester-based resin, a nylon-based resin, a modified PPE resin and a polymer alloy composed of polycarbonate.